

Minutes

Public Transportation Committee

2/10/10

Present: Jim Nash, John Norton, Alex Ghiselin, Elysse Link, Laura Hanson of DPW,
David Elvin of PVPC, Jamin Carroll of VATCO and Leslie Stein

1. Public Comment: none
2. Minutes of 1/13/10 were approved with one correction of adding list of attendees.
3. Transit Goals from Sustainability Plan:

Process for bus stop signage: The Committee discussed the draft Process for Obtaining Bus Stops that Laura Hanson had prepared. They noted that the many steps that were outlined are for designated bus stops where a no parking sign would be posted. They agreed that they also needed a process for posting bus stop signs for other areas in the city where parking may or may not be possible. Laura offered to make those changes and the committee will discuss it at their next meeting.

4. Old Business

Route 44 and Senior Center: Jamin Carroll reported that requests for stops at the back of the Senior Center are down to one or two a day from one to two every run. Laura Hanson noted that she will be holding a meeting at the Senior Center soon about the proposal to redo Conz Street and she will bring up the issue then. The committee agreed to table it for now.

5. New Business

Rider survey by PVPC: David Elvin said that the rider survey info is not yet official and had just been presented the PVTA Board on this day. He will discuss it with the committee next month.

Regional Transit meeting 1/15/10: David Elvin reported that the meeting was well attended and that many of the same topics were discussed. The plans for rail service to the west of the Connecticut River are on track and will probably be completed within two years.

David Elvin also reported that PVPC and PVTA have applied for a grant that will fund the purchase of 65 foot articulated buses for use at UMass and on the 43 between Amherst and Northampton.

The Committee discussed the need for more space for buses pulling up to the Academy of Music and across the street at the corner of Masonic. On the Academy side there is one more parking space that if removed would allow three to four buses to pull up at the same time. Across the street one bus can barely get into the space and out without blocking the side street, and that side of the street also needs more space for a shelter. Jamin Carroll will gather more specific data about these needs for the committee to discuss in March before we approach the Parking manager about the need for removing parking spaces.

The Committee had some discussion about the need for a multimodal center in downtown Northampton. There are some ideas being discussed in different circles and this Committee agreed that we need to be part of those discussions.

Jim Nash reported that the change in the schedule of the Route 42 has been working well for the students at the Hilltown Charter School.